

VARIATIONS

ON A MOTIVE OF BEETHOVEN

for full orchestra

GORDON RING

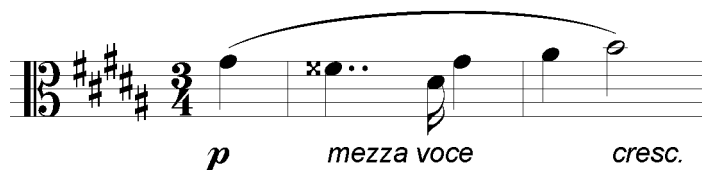
VARIATIONS

ON A MOTIVE OF BEETHOVEN

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The motive on which this work is based is found as the opening four melodic notes of sixth movement (of seven) in Beethoven's String Quartet No. 14 in C-Sharp Minor, op. 131:

No. 6 - Adagio quasi un poco andante, m. 2-4, viola



This sixth movement, as numbered by Beethoven in the score, serves as a slow introduction to, and moves without pause, directly into the seventh movement Allegro which concludes the work.

Beethoven first discussed the composition of this work in December 1825, and the work was completed by July 1826. However, it did not appear in a published version until June 1827, three months after the composer's death. The score is dedicated to the Baron Joseph von Stutterheim.

Unlike a typical theme and variations, Beethoven's motive serves as a musical generating device in the composition of this work. Following a rescoring of Beethoven's original sixth movement with metric alteration the motive becomes a generator of four variations, actually four short pieces, unified by statements of the motive. These statements are inverted, elaborated, and used in several modes.

ON A MOTIVE OF BEETHOVEN

Slowly and expressively ♩ = 60

5

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[illegible]

[illegible]

34 Moving $\text{♩} = 72$

Fls.

Ob.

B $\flat$ Cls.

Bsns.

Hns. 1, 3

Hns. 2, 4

C Trpts. 1, 2

C Trpt. 3

Trbs. 1, 2

B. Trb.

Tuba

34

Tim.

Perc.

34

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

34

Vc.

D.B.

a2

mp

mp

43 44

Fls.

Ob.

B $\flat$ Cls.

Bsns.

Hns. 1, 3

Hns. 2, 4

C Trpts. 1, 2

C Trpt. 3

Trbs. 1, 2

B. Trb.

Tuba

Timp.

Perc.

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

D.B.

mp

a2

mp

mp

8

50

52

Fls.

Ob.

B $\flat$ Cls.

Bsns.

Hns. 1, 3

Hns. 2, 4

C Trpts. 1, 2

C Trpt. 3

Trbs. 1, 2

B. Trb.

Tuba

Timp.

Perc.

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

D.B.

*mf**mf**f*

Straight Mute

fp

Straight Mute

fp

>

*f**fp*

>

*f**fp**fp**fp**fp**f**f*

>

*f**fp*

>

*f**fp*

>

*f**fp**mf**mf*

57

Fls.

Ob.

B $\flat$ Cls.

Bsns.

57

Hns. 1, 3

Hns. 2, 4

C Trpts. 1, 2

C Trpt. 3

Trbs. 1, 2

B. Trb.

Tuba

57

Timp.

Perc.

57

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

57

Vc.

D.B.

63

[illegible]

88

Fls.

Ob.

B♭ Cls.

Bsns.

Hns. 1, 3

Hns. 2, 4

C Trpts. 1, 2

C Trpt. 3

Trbs. 1, 2

B. Trb.

Tuba

88

Timp.

Perc.

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

D.B.

15

Fls.

Ob.

B $\flat$ Cls. *a2* *f* *mp*

Bsns. *f* *mf*

Hns. 1, 3 *113*

Hns. 2, 4

C Trpts. 1, 2

C Trpt. 3

Trbs. 1, 2

B. Trb.

Tuba

113

Timp.

Perc. *mp*

Vln. I *f* *mf*

Vln. II *f* *mf*

Vla. *f* *mp*

Vc. *f* *mf*

D.B. *f* *mf*

17

Detailed description: This is a page of a musical score for measures 113, 114, and 115. The score is written for a large orchestra. The instruments are arranged in staves from top to bottom: Flutes (Fls.), Oboes (Ob.), Clarinets in B-flat (B $\flat$ Cls.), Bassoons (Bsns.), Horns 1 and 3 (Hns. 1, 3), Horns 2 and 4 (Hns. 2, 4), Trumpets in C (C Trpts. 1, 2 and C Trpt. 3), Trombones 1 and 2 (Trbs. 1, 2), Baritone Trombone (B. Trb.), Tuba, Timpani (Timp.), Percussion (Perc.), Violin I (Vln. I), Violin II (Vln. II), Viola (Vla.), Violoncello (Vc.), and Double Bass (D.B.). The key signature has one sharp (F#). The time signature is not explicitly shown but appears to be 4/4. The score includes dynamic markings such as *f* (forte), *mf* (mezzo-forte), and *mp* (mezzo-piano). Measure 113 is marked with a rehearsal symbol. The page number 17 is centered at the bottom.

[illegible]

128

Fls.

Ob.

B $\flat$ Cls.

Bsns.

Hns. 1, 3

Hns. 2, 4

C Trpts. 1, 2

C Trpt. 3

Trbs. 1, 2

B. Trb.

Tuba

128

Timp.

Perc.

128

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

128

Vc.

D.B.

[illegible]

This image shows a page of a musical score for a large orchestra. The page is numbered 145 in the top left corner. The score is written for various instruments, including Flutes (Fls.), Oboes (Ob.), Clarinets in B-flat (B♭ Cls.), Bassoons (Bsns.), Horns in F (Hns. 1, 3 and 2, 4), Trumpets in C (C Trpts. 1, 2 and 3), Trombones in B-flat (Trbs. 1, 2 and B. Trb.), Tuba, Timpani (Timp.), Percussion (Perc.), Violins I and II (Vln. I and II), Viola (Vla.), Violoncello (Vc.), and Double Bass (D.B.). The music is written in 6/8 and 3/4 time signatures. Dynamics such as *ff* (fortissimo), *mf* (mezzo-forte), and *mp* (mezzo-piano) are indicated throughout the score. A rehearsal mark 145 is present at the top left of the page. The score is for measures 145 through 151, with the final measure of the page being measure 151.

152

Fls. *mf* *f* *mf*

Ob. *mf* *f* *mf*

B $\flat$ Cls. *f* *mp*

Bsns. *f* *mf*

Hns. 1, 3 *f*

Hns. 2, 4 *f*

C Trpts. 1, 2 *f*

C Trpt. 3 *f*

Trbs. 1, 2 *f* *mf*

B. Trb. *f* *mf*

Tuba *f* *mf*

152

Timp. *mp*

Perc. Strike with knuckles

152

Vln. I *mf* *f* *mf*

Vln. II *mf* *f* *mf*

Vla. *f* *mp*

152

Vc. *f* *mf*

D.B. *f* *mf*

f 22 *mf*

159

Fls. *f* *mf* *f*

Ob. *f* *mf* *f*

B^b Cls. *f* *mp* *f*

Bsns. *f* *mf* *f*

Hns. 1, 3 *f* *mf* *f*

Hns. 2, 4 *f* *mf* *f*

C Trpts. 1, 2 *f* *mf* *f*

C Trpt. 3 *f* *mf* *f*

Trbs. 1, 2 *f* *mf* *f*

B. Trb. *f* *mf* *f*

Tuba *f* *mf* *f*

Timp. *f* *mf* *f*

Perc. *mp* *f*

Vln. I *f* *mf* *f*

Vln. II *f* *mf* *f*

Vla. *f* *mp* *f*

Vc. *f* *mf* *f*

D.B. *f* *mf* *f*

165

174

177 Gently singing ♩ = 76

Fls.

Ob.

B♭ Cts.

Bsns.

Hns. 1, 3

Hns. 2, 4

C Trpts. 1, 2

C Trpt. 3

Trbs. 1, 2

B. Trb.

Tuba

Timp.

Perc.

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

S.Vlc.

Vc.

D.B.

pizz.

p

pizz.

p

pizz.

p

cantabile

p

mf

pizz.

185

189

Fls.

Ob.

B $\flat$ Cbs.

Bsns.

Hns. 1, 3

Hns. 2, 4

C Trpts. 1, 2

C Trpt. 3

Trbs. 1, 2

B. Trb.

Tuba

Timp.

Perc.

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

S.Vlc.

Vc.

D.B.

Suspended cymbal
With snare stick

Triangle

*mp**mp**mp**mp*

arco

arco

arco

185

185

p

[illegible]

209

Fls.

Ob.

B $\flat$ Cbs.

Bsns.

Hns. 1, 3

Hns. 2, 4

C Trpts. 1, 2

C Trpt. 3

Trbs. 1, 2

B. Trb.

Tuba

209

Timp.

Perc.

209

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

209

S.Vlc.

209

Vc.

209

D.B.

221

1. cantabile

225

mp

mp

Fls.

Ob.

B^b Cbs.

Bsns.

Hns. 1, 3

Hns. 2, 4

C Trpts. 1, 2

C Trpt. 3

Trbs. 1, 2

B. Trb.

Tuba

221

Timp.

Perc.

221

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

221

S.Vlc.

mp

pizz.

pizz.

pizz.

p

221

Vc.

D.B.

233 Steady, with energy $\text{♩} = 72$

Fls. a2 mp

Ob. 1. mp 2. mp

B $\flat$ Cls. a2 mp

Bsns. a2 mp

Hns. 1, 3

Hns. 2, 4

C Trpts. 1, 2

C Trpt. 3

Trbs. 1, 2

B. Trb.

Tuba

Timp. 233

Perc. 233

Vln. I arco mp

Vln. II arco mp

Vla. 233

S.Vlc. 233

Vc. mp

D.B.

This image shows a page from a musical score, specifically measures 243 through 248. The score is written for a large ensemble, including woodwinds, brass, percussion, and strings. The key signature has one flat (B-flat), and the time signature is common time (C).

The instruments listed on the left are:
Fls. (Flutes)
Ob. (Oboe)
B♭ Cls. (Baritone/Euphonium)
Bsns. (Bassoon)
Hns. 1, 3 (Horn 1 & 3)
Hns. 2, 4 (Horn 2 & 4)
C Trpts. 1, 2 (Trumpet 1 & 2)
C Trpt. 3 (Trumpet 3)
Trbs. 1, 2 (Trombone 1 & 2)
B. Trb. (Baritone Trombone)
Tuba
Timp. (Timpani)
Perc. (Percussion)
Vln. I (Violin I)
Vln. II (Violin II)
Vla. (Viola)
Vc. (Violoncello)
D.B. (Double Bass)

Measure numbers 243 and 248 are indicated at the top of their respective staves. Dynamics include *mf* (mezzo-forte) and *mp* (mezzo-piano). The Viola part includes the instruction "arco". The Double Bass part also includes "arco". There are various musical notations such as slurs, accents, and ties throughout the score.

252

Fls.

Ob.

Bs. Cls.

Bsns.

Hns. 1, 3

Hns. 2, 4

C Trpts. 1, 2

C Trpt. 3

Trbs. 1, 2

B. Trb.

Tuba

252

Timp.

Perc.

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

252

Vc.

D.B.

256

molto rit.

mf

f

ff

mp

Div.

a2

Fls. *a2* *f* *mf*

Ob. *a2* *f* *mf*

B $\flat$ Cbs. *a2* *f* *mf*

Bsns. *f* *mf*

Hns. 1, 3 *f*

Hns. 2, 4

C Trpts. 1, 2 *f*

C Trpt. 3 *f*

Trbs. 1, 2

B. Trb.

Tuba *f*

Timp.

Perc. *ff*

Vln. I *f* *mf* *mp*

Vln. II *f* *mf* *mp*

Vla. *f* *mf* *mp*

Vc. *f* *mf* *mp*

D.B. *f* *mf* *mp*

[illegible]